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INTRODUCTORY

BY CARL P. HÜBSCHER,

Secretary of Swiss Legation, Washington, D. C.

It would mean carrying coal to Newcastle should I, as a neutral diplomat whose thoughts are naturally concentrated upon the immediate needs of his country, attempt to add anything to the discussion, the more so as my friend, Professor Rappard, has in a masterly manner, elsewhere explained to you the position of Switzerland to the food question.

I may, however, ask your indulgence if I call to your attention the reasons why we representatives of foreign countries must be deeply indebted to the American Academy of Political and Social Science for having been given this opportunity to discuss the food question in an informal manner.

I have been connected with international affairs for many years and have been struck by the fact that, upon careful examination, we may find that the true root and origin of many international complications is too often mere misunderstanding—the sheer inability of both sides to comprehend the national character and ideals of one another—too often, also, negotiators are unable to divorce their personal feelings from their obligations as representatives of their respective nations.

In private life we observe that after a heart to heart talk, persons who have bitterly differed separate perhaps not as friends, but at least with a better understanding of each other's viewpoint.

The same is true in international life. Once the good will and desire is present to compose a misunderstanding by a free and open discussion, a solution of even a complicated international dispute may always be found.

To attain this end is necessary not only the more formal diplomatic negotiations, but also just such an open forum as the American Academy of Political and Social Science has arranged for the informal discussion of the food question.

This occasion provided by the Academy has made it possible

to present to the American public the views of foreign countries on the food embargo, and no one knows better than the citizens of the oldest republic in existence, Switzerland, that in the people themselves lies the ultimate verdict, and that is why we Swiss and we neutrals are justified in the assumption that a just solution of the food embargo will be found in the United States.

THE FOOD SITUATION OF NORWAY

BY FRIDTJOF NANSEN, D.Sc., D.C.L.,

Minister Plenipotentiary of Norway on Special Mission.

In spite of its great extension, Norway has not more than two and one-half million inhabitants. Our country thus has one of the smallest populations of any country in Europe though Norway is one of the oldest kingdoms existing. Though we are small our history may, however, be said to have proved that the Norwegian people possess some good qualities, ever since the days when the Norsemen were the first to cross the Atlantic Ocean and reach the shores of the new world where they established permanent colonies in Greenland. The Norsemen were, and are still, a strong race with a high degree of vitality which is proved for instance by the unusually low death rate in our country. For this and other reasons our people have during the last century increased in number more than any other European people. The increase of our population was on the basis of 100 to 254. If it had not been for the emigration, especially to this country, this increase would have been much greater. We have the doubtful honor of being that European country which next to Ireland has sent comparatively most emigrants across the ocean. In the latter half of the past century one-half million people left Norway and in the ten years from 1901 to 1910 no less than 190,000 left the country. In many years the emigration was more than half the increase by birth and in some years even more than the whole increase by birth. There are now said to be in this country one and one-half million Norwegians of the first and second generation.

The important question in connection with the subject interesting us at present is: How do the people of Norway live? What are their means of existence?